



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

**1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733**

September 13, 2016

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2016, to Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, concerning your interest in the progress being made regarding water quality within the Illinois River Watershed. Your letter was forwarded to me as Arkansas and Oklahoma fall under my jurisdiction.

The EPA is pleased to share with you that we remain fully committed to the cooperative approach you describe, and to underscore that our commitment has never wavered in that regard since we began this project in late November 2009. Moreover, the EPA would be happy to elaborate on information regarding recent progress on developing a model for the Illinois River Watershed, progress that is the direct result of our having worked closely with our state and tribal partners.

Over the last six months, the EPA has convened four meetings with representatives of stakeholder agencies to discuss and work through technical comments/concerns based on their reviews of the modeling reports. The agencies represented in this technical workgroup include: the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; the Oklahoma Conservation Commission; the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; and, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. In addition, Mr. Tom Elkins of the Cherokee Nation and Dr. Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center (University of Arkansas) participate. We have had energetic discussions around many issues including, for example, those related to rainfall; spatial and temporal application of litter; inconsistencies in simulated versus monitored flow, especially in consideration of drought conditions that existed in parts of 2005-2006; and additional sources of nutrients in the watershed, to name just a few. These discussions have been informative and helpful in guiding the Agency to include and accommodate a number of changes to improve both the watershed and lake models.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Cary Martindale, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-8147.

Sincerely,


Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

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Identical letters sent to:

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The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
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The Honorable Markwayne Mullins
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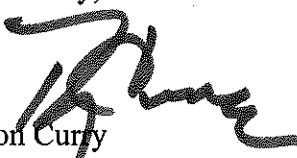
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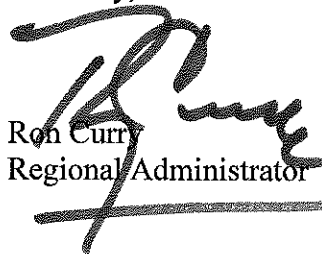
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